

The invention claimed is:

1. An airport map display system for an aircraft comprising:
 - a user interface comprising,
 - a display screen, and
 - a map selection input;
 - a data storage device capable of storing data representative of at least one airport map;

and

 - a processor in communication with said display screen, said map selection input, and said data storage device, wherein said processor generates airport map data comprising location points computed relative to a reference point and provides said airport map data to the display screen.
2. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said reference point is said aircraft.
3. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said location points are representative of latitude and longitude coordinates.
4. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said data representative of an airport map comprises data representative of a runway and a taxiway.

5. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said data representative of an airport map comprises data representative of a taxi route.

6. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said data representative of an airport map comprises data representative of an airport structure selected from the group consisting of a gate, a terminal building, a runway, a taxiway, a ramp area, and a deicing station.

7. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said location points are scaled to represent an enlarged or reduced size airport structure.

8. The airport map display system of claim 7, wherein said location points are a function of an Earth radius value.

9. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said airport map data comprises raster labels intended for representing enroute flight symbology.

10. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said user interface comprises an EFIS control panel.

11. The airport map display system of claim 1, wherein said user interface comprises a dual use input that activates the display of airport map data when a taxi-related page is active.

12. The airport map system of claim 1, wherein said data storage device stores a predefined standard taxi route.

13. The airport map system of claim 1, wherein said display screen is a head-down display (HDD).

14. The airport map system of claim 1, wherein said display screen is a head-up display (HUD).

15. The airport map system of claim 1, wherein said user interface comprises a multifunction control display unit (MCDU).

16. The airport map system of claim 1, wherein said processor is a flight management computer (FMC).

17. A method of airport map data interchange in an aircraft comprising the steps of:
obtaining the coordinates of a reference location;
communicating said reference location to a display device;
computing structure coordinates of an airport structure relative to said reference location; and
communicating said structure coordinates to said display device.

18. The method of airport map data interchange of claim 17, wherein said reference location is a portion of said aircraft.

19. The method of airport map data interchange of claim 17 further comprising the step of scaling said structure coordinates as a function of reference coordinates and the airport feature coordinates.

20. The method of airport map data interchange of claim 17 further comprising the step of computing taxi route coordinates relative said reference location and communicating said taxi route coordinates to said display device.

21. The method of airport map data interchange of claim 17 further comprising the step of communicating said structure coordinates responsive to a activation of an dual use input when a taxi-related page is displayed on a display screen.